

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 25, 2004

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LIBRARIAN SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE APPROACHING
Deadline one month away

(HELENA)---The Montana State Library issued a reminder today that the deadline to apply for the Public Education and Employment for Librarians (PEEL) scholarships is March 26.

Last fall, the State Library was selected for a \$206,167 “Recruiting and Educating Librarians for the 21st Century” award from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services. The three-year grant will fund a statewide promotion/recruitment campaign designed to attract Montana residents to the library profession, with an emphasis on recruiting more Native American librarians. Six Montana residents will receive scholarships to attend graduate library school and will be required to work in a Montana public, school, or tribal library for a minimum of two years following the program. Stipends will also be awarded to help libraries bring these new graduates into their communities.

Sue Jackson, PEEL project coordinator, said, “Because graduate degrees in library science are not offered in-state, pursuing the education needed to become a professional librarian can be prohibitively expensive. We’re glad we have the opportunity to help more Montanans train for a rewarding career in the library field.”

The State Library’s PEEL advisory committee will meet in April to review applications and make its recommendations to the Montana State Library Commission, whose members will name the winners. The scholarship winners will begin school in the summer or fall of 2004.

Visit <http://msl.state.mt.us/greatcareer> to download a scholarship application or learn more about a career in Montana’s libraries. For more information about the PEEL

project, contact Sue Jackson at the Montana State Library at (406) 444-5350 or at sujackson@state.mt.us.

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